

Negotiating a new social contract for the extractive industries: what is the role of geoscientists?

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EOS14

26 April 2017

Resource industries vs sustainability?



Geoethics at the heart of all geoscience?



Critical minerals to facilitate development

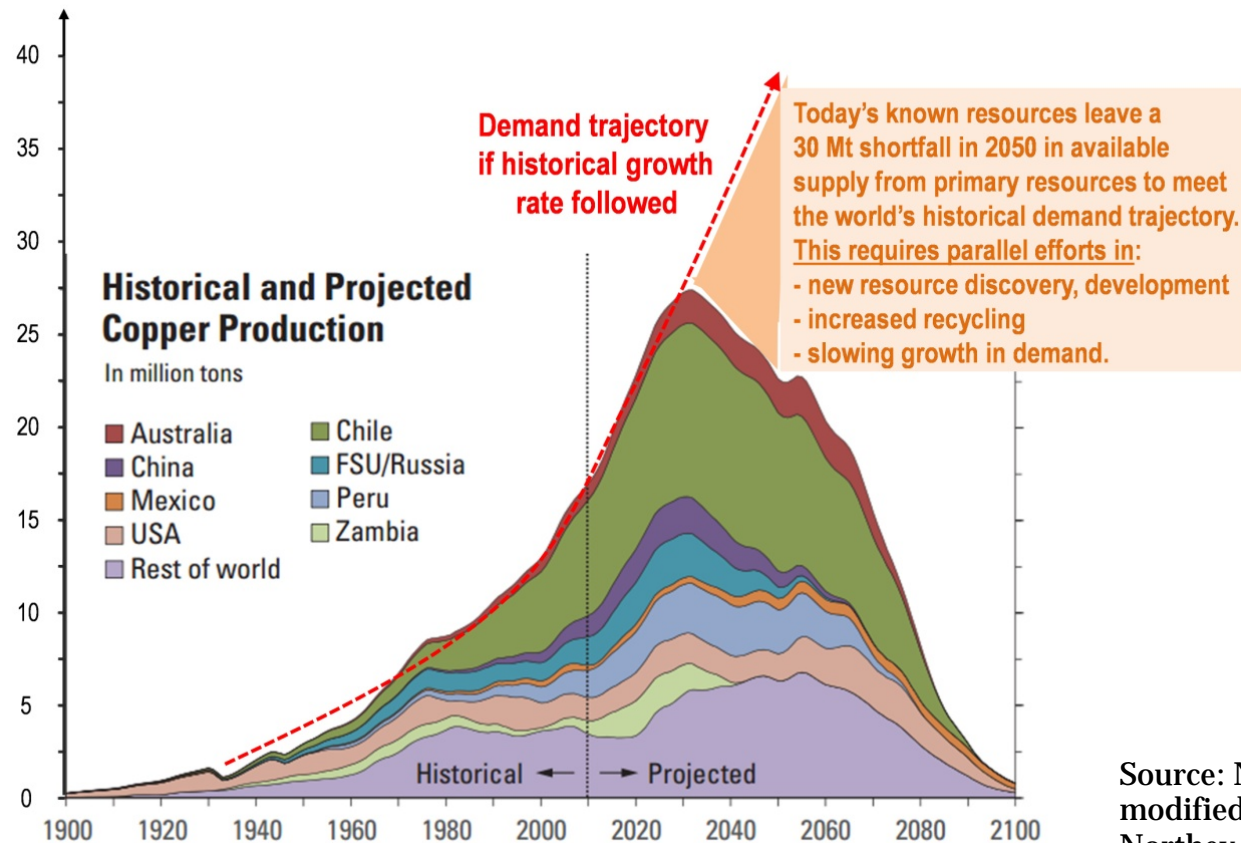
- Improvement in the standard of living of many of the world's poorest has been driven in large measure by technological development
- That development has depended on the use of an increasingly wide range of metallic elements

Critical Mineral Commodities through Western Civilization
adapted from Roland Oberhaensli, 2013, Personal communication



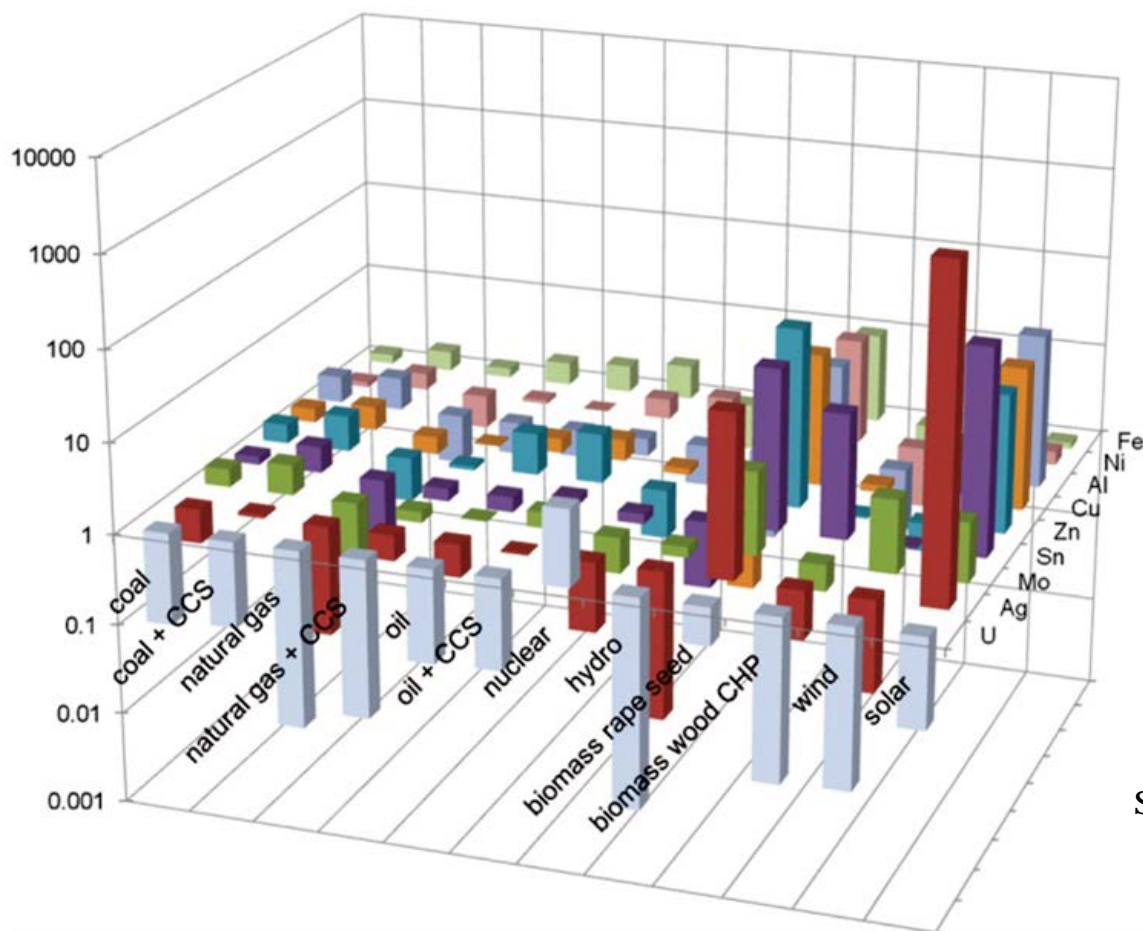
Source: Nickless (2016),
modified from Oberhaensli
(2013)

Supply and demand: copper...



Source: Nickless (2016),
modified from Kerr (2014) and
Northey et al (2014)

Altered priorities ahead...



Source: Klein, 2012



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INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
PROMOTING
GEOETHICS

What does a mine look like?

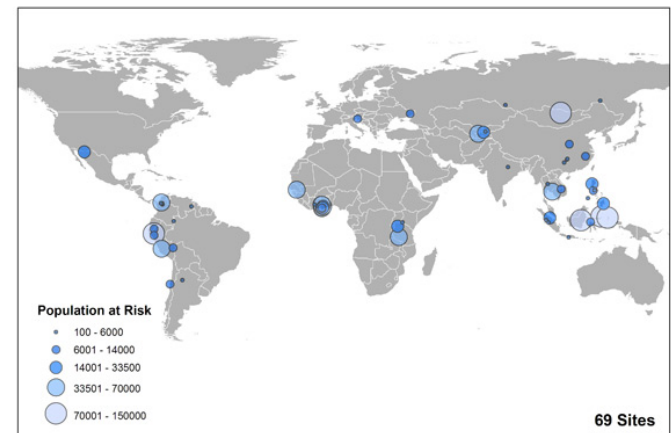


Some ethical considerations

- Safety
- Child labour
- Corruption and tax evasion
- Resource colonialism
- Environmental degradation
- Pollution (and exporting our environmental impacts)



Mercury Pollution from Mining and Ore Processing



From 'social licence to operate' to 'social contract'

- Localised... atomised... minimal?
- A changing picture
- But what is missing?





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



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An opportunity



RFG 2018

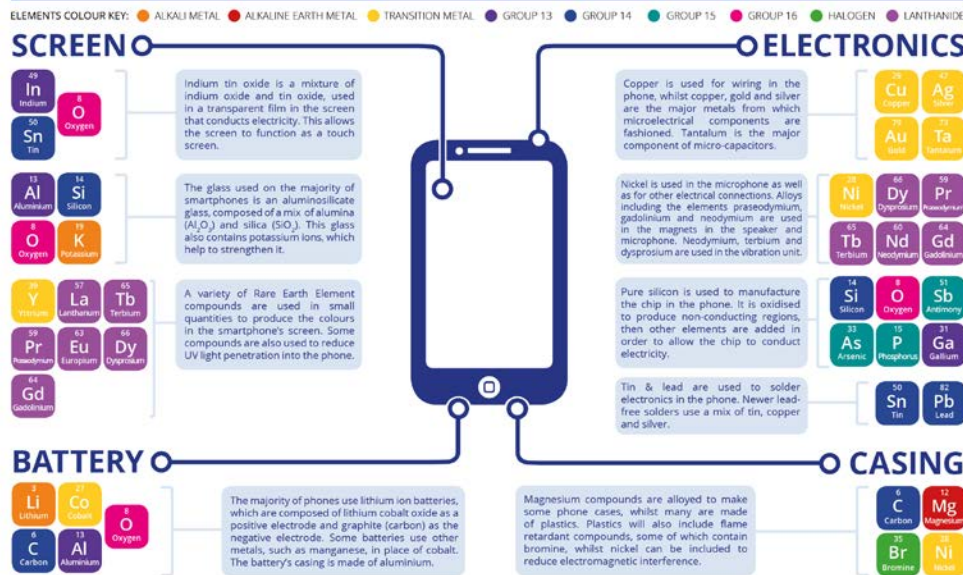
‘...to bring world attention to the challenges of sustaining resource supplies and to outline a pathway to the future, including a route to nation-building and poverty alleviation through resource development’

A call to mobilise the global geoscience community to address a global challenge – scientific, technical, but also ethical

Towards a new social contract for mining

- Global governance
- A holistic system view
- Political engagement
- Reconnecting consumers with the minerals they use

ELEMENTS OF A SMARTPHONE

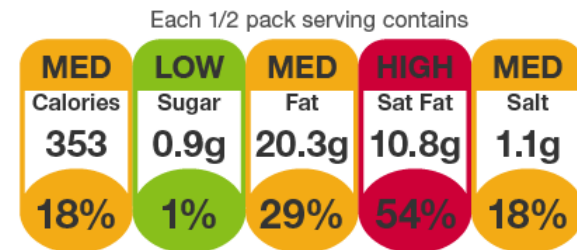


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Reconnecting with the minerals we use

- Raising awareness
- Changing behaviours
- Connecting people with the environmental and social impacts (positive and negative) of winning these resources
- What will work?



of your guideline daily amount

Source: Food Standards Agency



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